COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Defense Committee Formed On Prisoner-of-War Policy

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has formed a top-level Prisoner of War Policy Committee to insure that all conceivable channels are explored to protect the welfare of U.S. prisoners.

Committee members will work with the Department of State and all agencies within DOD which have been concerned with the prisoner of war problem since the beginning of the war in Vietnam.

In addition, the committee will exert efforts to insure prisoners receive their rights under the Geneva Convention, and explore ways to obtain the ultimate repatriation of prisoners. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) has been designated committee chairman.

The committee will deal with all matters, within the cognizance of the Department of Defense, concerning U.S. military personnel reported as being missing or held captive.

Membership includes representatives of the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director of Defense Intelligence Agency, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), and the General Counsel of DOD.

The committee has responsibility for coordinating current programs within DOD, developing new plans and policies, and recommending new courses of action on behalf of military personnel.

President Nominates Nielsen As AF Assistant Secretary

President Johnson has nominated Thomas H. Nielsen of California to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Finance Management), replacing Leonard Marks Jr., who will resign Dec. 31.

Born Nov. 7, 1930 at Fullerton, Calif., Mr. Nielsen was a Navy officer from 1952 to 1955 and is the president of the California Land Co. and executive vice president of the White Investment Co.

He is a certified public accountant and received his education at Stanford University and the University of Washington.

Mr. Marks has served as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force since July 8, 1964.

AIR FORCE ANNIVERSARY—Brig. Gen. Richard L. Ault, 6100th Support Wing Commander, accepts a framed, hand-carved eagle in commemoration of the Air Force's 20th anniversary from Yoshihisa Shimada, president, Tachikawa Air Base Japanese Employees Welfare Assn. Mr. Shimada presented the emblem to Gen. Ault on behalf of the nearly 8,000 Japanese employees working on the base. The Air Force will mark 20 years as a separate service Sept. 18.

Defense Secretary Named Member Of Management-Labor Review Panel

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has been named to a special Presidential committee to review the five-year-old federal government management-labor program.

Mr. McNamara will join with other top level government officials representing practically all phases of federal employment in an effort to ascertain the program's accomplishments and deficiencies.

Calling the program beneficial to management and employees alike, President Johnson said, however, that the time has come to consider adjustments needed to "insure its continued vitality in the public interest."

The President said the Civil Service Commission has received "a number of suggestions for changes in the program" from both federal agencies and employee organizations, and pointed out that as the program has matured there has been "increasing evidence that some of the arrangements devised for a fledgling operation are no longer suitable."

Washington Memos

DEFENSE SECRETARY Robert S. McNamara says there are four factors that determine targets selected for bombing by U.S. planes in Vietnam: value of target, risk to aircrews, risk to civilians in North Vietnam and risk of escalation.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE has asked Selective Service System to provide 22,000 inductees during November. All are to go to Army. DOD said this request supports currently approved force levels and will assure timely flow of replacements for men completing their terms of service.

MAJ. GEN. THEODORE C. Bedwell Jr., USAF-MC, has been designated Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical). Dr. Shirley C. Fisk, who had been the Deputy ASD since June 1963, has resigned for personal reasons. Gen. Bedwell has been Director of Staff under Dr. Fisk since July 1966.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION announced cumulative total of GI loans to veterans climbed to above $7 million at end of fiscal year 1967. World War II veterans received $5.6 million of total $7.27 million in GI loans, while Korean Conflict veterans received $1.5 million. Remainder of total was made to post-Korean Conflict veterans.

WORLD'S LARGEST aircraft will begin taking shape next month when three sections of Air Force's C-5A Galaxy will be joined together at Lockheed-Georgia Co. Air Force Plant Six, Marietta, Ga. Brig. Gen. Guy M. Townsend, C-5A Program Director, said three fuselage sections will be first large structural parts to be joined. When together, they will form a nearly 230-foot-long structure. Aircraft is scheduled for completion early next year.

APPOINTED NEW DEPUTY Chief of Information for the Army is Brig. Gen. Wendell J. Coats, former Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Training Center, Ft. Polk, La. He succeeds Brig. Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey who has been assigned to Hq., Third U.S. Army, Atlanta, Ga. Gen. Coats is on the list for promotion to temporary major general.

NAVAL ORDNANCE SYSTEMS Command has awarded $2.6 million contract to Dynell Electronics Corps, Plainview, N.Y., for production of radar sets for Navy and for Australia.

AIR FORCE Maj. Gen. John B. Henry has relieved Air Force Maj. Gen. Jack N. Donohew as Director, Inter-American Defense College, Washington, D.C. Gen. Henry reported to new assignment from post of Secretary, Air Force Personnel Council, Air Force Headquarters. Gen. Donohew has become Commandant, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., and Vice Commander, Air University Command.

ARMY HAS ANNOUNCED that officer and enlisted personnel who attend the Association of the U.S. Army Convention, Oct. 9-11 in Washington, D.C., will have an opportunity to review their military records. The Adjutant General's Office will operate an information desk at Convention headquarters where appointments may be made for review of records at the Pentagon.

AT MINOT AFB, N.D., 37 missile launch control officers of the 455th Strategic Missile Wing have received Master Degrees in Industrial Management under Minuteman Education program. Program is conducted by Air Force Institute of Technology and University of North Dakota. Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles are assigned to the Wing.

AIR FORCE CENTRAL temporary lieutenant colonel selection board convenes Sept. 20 at USAF Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex. Maximum quota for line officer selections is 3,722. In the secondary zone, the line officer selection quota is 279 which is at the expense of the total.

ATTACK AIRCRAFT carrier USS Shangri-La has won 1967 Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy for improvement in battle efficiency as unit of U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Award is given annually to ship or aircraft squadron in each fleet that is judged to have made greatest improvement in battle efficiency during preceding year.

A MINIATURIZED HISTORY of the Air National Guard depicted by highly accurate scale models of each type aircraft flown by the Guardsmen since the NG went into aviation in 1908 will be displayed in Washington during the latter part of September. The 1/72nd scale models of 56 planes—from biplanes to F-105s, will be shown at the 89th general conference of the National Guard Association of the United States.

ARMY AVIATION Materiel Command announced award of two production contracts totaling $62.7 million to Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex. Larger of two contracts is $37.6 million for production of 553 UH-IH Iroquois helicopters. Second contract, amounting to $25.17 million is for 214 AH-IG HueyCobra gunship helicopters.

NAVY'S MEDICAL FIELD Research Laboratory teamed with Army's Medical Equipment Research and Development Laboratory in Operation Tick-Trick 1-67 to test effectiveness of a tick-controlling insecticide and the Army's insecticide dispersal helicopter. Tests showed as little as ¼ pint of the insecticide per acre killed mosquitoes, gnats and flies, and kept the tick population near zero for several weeks. Navy recommending the helicopter be put to use immediately by Marines in Vietnam.

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THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Army Extends Application Lead-Time For Enlisted Retirement Requests

Army has announced a change in its retirement policy for enlisted personnel effective in November. It extends the application lead-time from the current six to 12 months.

Officials said the changes to AR 635-230 were made to help avoid the so-called "double lock-in" situations where combinations of promotional obligations, overseas tour commitments and PCS moves can extend the actual retirement date 12-24 months.

As of Nov. 1, Army personnel with 19 years service may apply for retirement up to a year in advance.

Officials said the retirement lead time change to 12 months is a follow-on to an Army policy announced in February, requiring 12 months' service after reassignment before becoming retirement eligible.

Also under the new policy, applicants will lose the current 30 days' grace period to decline a new assignment and elect retirement. They now can be reassigned and must comply with their orders. They will be assured, however, of retiring on the requested date of the approved application.

The policy in effect until Nov. 1 stipulates 19½ years of service must be completed before a retirement application can be submitted.

Army said in a September personnel message (DA831370) to the field that an exception has been made for individuals who receive alert or actual orders in October. They may apply for retirement even though the 30-day grace period extends into November.

Comparative retirement lead time for Navy enlisted personnel is a requested 12 months with a minimum of 6 months accepted in some cases. Air Force will accept no EM applications until 8 months prior to completing 20 years service.

Britain Joins Multi-Nation Communications R&D Project

Britain has joined the United States, Canada and Australia in the "Mallard" research and development project to produce a tactical communications system linking field armies, navies and air forces of the member nations.

In its Sept. 12 announcement, Department of Defense said the United Kingdom had deferred joining the Mallard Project, ratified by three governments in April, pending sharing of costs and work.

The Mallard Project will cost approximately $126 million in R&D funding and take about eight years to complete, DOD said.

The system is to be "secure, full automatic, switched communications in the battlefield area from Army headquarters down to battalion" for voice, telegraph, data and facsimile.

ON-SITE INSPECTION—Army Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Scott Jr., (left), who recently assumed command of the 1st Logistical Command in Vietnam, prepares for an aerial tour of the Army's Newport Terminal. With the general is Col. Cary A. Kennedy Jr., Commanding Officer, 4th Transportation Command, which operates the Saigon military port and its sister facility at Newport.

Army Notes Openings Still Available In Officer Special Career Programs

Although response in the Army's special career program for officers has been encouraging, officials say many openings still exist in any of the 11 areas.

Since the program began last December, enrollment has increased by nearly a thousand. Reason for the sudden growth, Army explained, is an awareness of prospective members that the program improves chances for promotion.

About 75 percent of the officer applicants and 89 percent of the nominees are accepted for participation in the special career programs.

Officers may apply or be nominated for membership in the areas of atomic energy, automatic data processing, civil affairs, comptroller, foreign area studies, information, intelligence, logistics, operations research, procurement, and research and development.

Selections are made on the basis of the candidate's overall performance of duty and his qualifications in a particular specialty.

Individuals accepted for a specific program receive any necessary training required. Afterwards they alternate between specialist and branch assignments.

Officials emphasized that officers selected for the program do not lose their branch identification and may withdraw at any time. Programs are voluntary.

Navy Liberalizes Long Liberty Policy

New Navy policy extends the 96-hour liberty, usually limited to shore activities in remote areas, to include ships undergoing overhaul away from their home ports.

Chief of Naval Personnel also will consider from fleet units the granting of four day liberty on a one-time basis where special recognition of service or unusual conditions appear warranted.

The extension was made when Navy found it "could alleviate some of the family separation or compensate for other demands on Navy personnel which prevent their taking normal amounts of liberty."

Commanders can find procedures in BUPERSINST 1050.10 of Aug. 18, 1967, which also advises 96-hour liberty is no substitute for a leave program.

Liquid Fuel Off-Loading System Under Army Tests

Off-loading liquid fuel from waterborne vessels to shore may be speeded up by a new system being tested by Army.

An 8-inch floating hoseline has been designed to transfer fuels from water craft to collapsible containers on shore at a rate of 1,000 barrels an hour. This provides a major advantage over the present method of floating 55-gallon drums of fuel to shore.

In the operation being conducted by the Army's Mobility Equipment Command's Engineer and Research Development Laboratories at Ft. Belvoir, Va., the reel-mounted hoseline is positioned on the beach and played out to the anchored bulk carrier. It is retrieved for re-use after transfer of fuel.

The lightweight hose is made in 50-foot sections, for quick replacement in case of breaks, and can be used out to 1,000 feet.

CONVENTION GREETINGS—Marine Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt (left) is greeted upon his arrival in Kansas City for 44th Annual Marine Corps League Convention by the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Herbert J. Sweet (right) and Kansas City, Kan., Mayor Joseph McDowell, a former Marine. Gen. Walt was the guest of honor during the week-long Marine Corps League Convention.

DOD Plans Reduction Of 13,000 Civilian Jobs

Reduction of 13,000 civilian spaces is planned for Defense Department agencies and Army and Air Force by the end of September.

Reductions, DOD officials said, will be accomplished through attrition to the maximum extent. Reductions exclude any positions which may be converted under the civilian conversion program during the July 1-September 30 period.

Reductions would be 3,000 for Defense Supply Agency, 6,000 for Army and 4,000 for Air Force.

The Department of Defense had increased its civilian work force to support the buildup in Vietnam. It was explained that the workload has now leveled off and the civilian spaces are being reduced.

AF Names Selectees For Research Pilot School

Air Force has identified 16 officers to study at the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards AFB, Calif., and another at the Navy Test Pilot School at Patuxent, Md.

Selected to attend school at Edwards, starting in February, are: Captains Gary W. Findlay, Robert A. Jackson and Norman L. Suits, Nellis AFB, Nev.; Robert L. Keller and Duane H. Zieg, McConnell AFB, Kan.; John E. Colwell, Vance AFB, Okla.; Kenneth E. Staten, Cannon AFB, N.M.; James W. Thar, Williams AFB, Ariz.; Gerald A. Blake, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; John T. Gleason, Shaw AFB, S.C.; Dennis E. Crouch, Wurtsmith AFB, Mich.; Bernard A. Higdon, Phan Rang AB, Vietnam; and John E. Boehm, Yokota AB, Japan.

Also, Majors Kermit L. Haderlie, Hq USAF, Washington, D.C.; George H. Meyers III, Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam; and William J. Rosetti, Saigon. All are veteran pilots, 11 with fighter aircraft background.

Capt. Julius A. Tieber III, a helicopter pilot on duty in Saigon, will enter the Navy school in June.

Another selection board will meet in January to consider officers for school beginning next August.

New Navy Gun Developed For Use on Destroyers

Navy has developed a lightweight, fully automatic 5-inch 54. cal. gun which will eventually replace the 5-inch 38. cal. gun now primarily used on destroyers.

The new gun weighs one-third less than present ones and can be operated by a six-man crew stationed below decks. It has a range of 20,000 yards and fires a projectile weighing more than 50 pounds.

Navy says the gun—with a 20-round-per-minute rate of fire—will increase a destroyer's capability in engaging fast-moving air and surface targets and permit increased fire-support during amphibious operations.

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